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SUBJECT Opinions of Viet Minh Tong-Bo Regarding Possible
Cuong De - United States Relationship.

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25X1A

1. The Viet Minh Tong-bo in Bangkok held a meeting on board a junk at Prateonam, Bangkok, [REDACTED] The most important question discussed at the meeting was the relationship between the United States and Prince Cuong De. The Viet Minh Tong-bo is of the opinion that the United States is attempting to have Cuong De replace Bao Dai. The Viet Minh believes that the position of Cuong De would be regarded by the United States as similar to that of President Syngman Rhee in Korea.
2. The Viet Minh Tong-bo in Bangkok feels that the United States will do all in its power to send United States troops into Indochina. However, the Viet Minh Tong-bo points out that the Indochinese differ temperamentally from the Koreans and further, that the situation in Indochina at present is a colonial problem and not a question of Communist aggression, since the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam is not a Communist state.*

25X1A

Comment. It is to be noted from the statements of the Viet Minh Tong-bo that it does not admit that the Viet Minh is a Communist government. This indicates that although the Communists control the Tong-bo, there are still many Vietnamese patriotic elements within the Viet Minh who are not Communists. Moreover, the Tong-bo statement shows that Communist elements within the Viet Minh find it necessary to placate non-Communist members by subterfuges and half-truths. This strategy is necessary because the Viet Minh Communists in Indochina are far from being in complete control and, therefore, require considerable support from the population to enable them to succeed in their struggle against the French.

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